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PLACE NAMES OF  
AFRICA, 1935-1986:

A Political Gazetteer

EUGENE C. KIRCHHERR

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## A Political Gazetteer

by  
EUGENE C. KIRCHHERR



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This is a completely revised, enlarged, and updated edition of the author's earlier monographs, the last of which appeared under the title, Abyssinia to Zimbabwe: A Guide to the Political Units of Africa in the Period 1947-1978, 3rd ed. (Papers in International Studies, Africa Series No. 25 [Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Center of International Studies, 1979]).

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The gazetteer (Part Two) first entered a word processor through the skilled hands of Ms. Victoria Soboleski and Mrs. Celia Besbris. Typing the manuscript was one additional assignment for these already overburdened departmental secretaries. Cognizant of my deadlines, they attempted to work as often as time permitted on the manuscript. Subsequent to the



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I owe special thanks to numerous authorities known to me only through their published work. The thoroughly researched studies of many Africanists proved indispensable as sources in verifying historical, political, and geographical details. Regrettably, the selected bibliography (Part Four) does not identify all the individuals whose works were used. Indeed, had I attempted to list every book and article consulted, the result would have been a lengthy bibliographical sourcebook with little space for the gazetteer and supplementary notes.

I am truly indebted to those who in varied ways made immeasurable contributions to this undertaking. Nevertheless, I assume full responsibility for the overall organization of the book and also for the selection and interpretation of data presented in the text and maps. Believing that anyone consulting a gazetteer for basic information should not be given a potpourri of fact and opinion (with possibly heavy sprinklings of the latter), I have attempted to present the material in a concise, straightforward format and to maintain the highest possible accuracy in reporting dates and significant events.

Eugene C. Kirchherr  
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## PART ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### I. THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL GAZETTEER

In the history of Africa, especially in the realm south of the Sahara, the last quarter of the nineteenth century was noteworthy as the period when European powers were engaged in a competitive "scramble," each seeking to establish its authority over areas previously unclaimed and unlimited. Although spheres of influence would be contested and boundaries realigned through the early part of the twentieth century, by the end of the first World War, many African political territories had assumed characteristic shapes which in many cases remain recognizable even now. The names of colonies and protectorates had also become fairly standardized and would be retained for several decades. Yet by the third quarter of the century, colonial powers found they could not ignore demands for independence voiced by a growing number of articulate, resolute African leaders who were gaining a popular following. Through the period of political transition, from the end of colonial rule through the early post-independence years, new names (toponyms) had begun to appear on the political map of Africa.

Scholars have substantially documented the origin of political organizations and nationalist movements in many African dependencies between World Wars I and II. Such evidence of nationalist aspirations notwithstanding, in 1935, the base year for this reference work, there were just four independent states on the continent: Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, and the Union (now Republic) of South Africa (Fig. 1). That condition remained unchanged until 1951 when Libya became the first African state to achieve independence in the post-World War II period. Libya and other North African